PAM. Stories & Incidents
AFRICA Wilder, G. A.
86

FROM THE EAST AND FROM THE WEST

A NEW MAN IN EAST AFRICA

By Rev. GEORGE A. WILDER, D.D.
Of Chikore, Rhodesia

(*Reprinted from Missionary Herald*)

WE had two weddings last week. One of the brides is the sister of Tom Mapangisana, who had before shown encouraging evidence that the spirit of Christ was in him. When the ceremony was over Tom rose and made the following statement to the company:—

"I have two sisters and two daughters and am married. If I were still following my old heathen ways I should soon have five wives instead of one, for my father is dead and I inherited his property. The sisters and my girls are all salable in the marriage market. But I have chosen a better way. We

are now following the Lord Jesus, and he shows us that the sale of our children and the taking of many wives are not good. Some of you may think that I have taken money, cattle, or goats from this young man just married to my sister. I wish to state publicly that I have not taken one penny for her. I have just given my sister away because she says she loves this man, and because I want to do the right thing."

As this is the very first case in this mission where a person owned by a Christian has been given away in marriage, the significance of this act on Tom's part is plain. I took occasion to say to the people: —

"Yes, and do not let it be said in the future when church members are many and prosperous, and Satan puts it into your hearts to sell your children, that the early Christians sold their daughters."

In another way Tom showed the power of the gospel when he came to me yesterday for advice. It appears that before he was a Christian and before his father's death they got the sum of forty dollars from a man, promising him one of the sisters in marriage. The man now demands the girl, offering to pay the balance of her price. Tom asked my advice in the situation. So we talked it over.

"You remember your remarks at the wedding; then it is plain, is it not, that you must pay back the forty dollars?"

"But the girl has been promised to the man."

"You cannot let her go to that heathen, for she is a church member and does not want to marry him."

"I do not see my way out of the agreement; it was my father who made the bargain."

"We will send you with a letter to the magistrate, and if you will acknowledge the debt and promise to pay it I feel sure the magistrate will make the matter all right."

"I am willing to do this, but where am I to get the money? The magistrate will say I must pay down the cash, and as you know I have no money and no means for earning that amount right away. It would take me two years to get such a sum in addition to supporting my family."

"All right, you must go to work and ask God to help you to get it; he will not desert you. Are you willing to go to the magistrate and acknowledge the debt?"

"I will go."

If it is not worth while for good Christians of America to support their mission board in getting hold of such stuff as Tom is proving to be I want to know why.

A NEW MAN IN WEST AFRICA

By Rev. THOMAS W. WOODSIDE

Of Ochileso, Angola

(*Reprinted from Missionary Herald*)

ONE day there appeared at our mission station at Bihe a figure that at first sight seemed to be a mere lad. I saw him squatting on the ground, and supposed that he was a runaway slave. Calling him to me, I knew at once from his speech that he was from the far interior, where most of the slaves come from. Then I listened to his story. He said that he was from the Lumba country, but that he had not been sold and that he was not a slave. It seems there had been trouble between him and his brother, and he had attached himself to a caravan, with which he had come to Bihe some four or five years previously. The head man of the caravan had received him kindly, and had treated him well, calling him his "son." So he had lived with the man in his village and gone with him on his trading trips. At length the man died. His heirs

were planning to take Kaluwasi and sell him to some white man for rum and powder to pay for the funeral expenses of the one who had died.

Believing his story, we received him into the station and provided him with food and lodging. He attended school, and learned to read and write, the latter not very well. He became a Christian, built a house for himself, was married, and at length became the father of a little boy.

A few years ago there was a great deal of stealing from the fields about the station, so that their owners took to watching them to see if they could catch the thieves. Kaluwasi was lying hid in his own field one afternoon, when he saw a couple of fellows enter and begin to help themselves to the corn. When they saw Kaluwasi they fled. He chased them, and when he overtook them declared that he had seen them stealing corn in his field and told them to come along with him. Upon that they turned on him with ax and knives and were about to make an end of him. He warded off several blows; finally, fearing for his life, he shot and wounded one of them, who shortly after died.

They proved to be the slaves of a white man of this Portuguese country, and when the owner heard of it he at once sent word to the fort. Soldiers

were dispatched to arrest Kaluwasi. They found him near the fort on his way there to report the case to the captain. They took him back with them, and at once he was ordered to prison without being given so much as a hearing. After being kept there for several months he was sent a prisoner to the coast, 300 miles away, for the captain said he had no jurisdiction in the case and could not try him.

At the coast Kaluwasi was confined in the common prison with all kinds of criminals, both white and black. For more than two years and a half, without a trial, he was kept in that wretched hole, surrounded with all that is low and mean and far from his friends; left alone against the awful vileness of the place; but as with Peter when he was in prison, so with Kaluwasi, "prayer was made for him by the church unceasingly"; occasionally when some went to the coast they tried to see the prisoner. This they could sometimes do, speaking to him through the window bars.

Repeated efforts were made to have his case brought to trial and to interest some persons of influence in his behalf. One lawyer offered to take up the case for $500, which was of course prohibitive. There seemed nothing to do but to wait and to call upon God. The poor man was supplied with reading

matter from time to time, and letters were frequently sent him. Finally, it seems the authorities got tired of waiting to see if anything would be done (what they expected I do not know), or else they grudged the expense of keeping him; at any rate he was released. They questioned him what he would do if he was let go; he said he would go back to the mission. Then they asked him if he would not remain at the coast and work there, where wages are much higher. He replied that he wished to return to the mission; he had a wife and child there, and he longed to return to them. This seemed to satisfy his captors, and they released him.

It was a day of great rejoicing when Kaluwasi came marching into the village at Ochileso. It almost seemed to his friends as though he had returned from the grave. He was not what we considered a strong, established Christian when he went away, and we had no little fear for him, knowing what would be his environment. Yet he seemed to have kept himself aloof from all the drunkenness and other vice of the prison, and to come back a stronger Christian than he went away.

Just the evening before I left to return to America Kaluwasi came and said he wanted to talk to me, and in

my office he unburdened his heart. He had been thinking that he wanted to hurry and learn more, until he could read and write well, and that he wanted his wife also to hurry with her learning. Then he wished to go to his own people in the far interior (perhaps 700 or 800 miles), to the Lumba country. He said that there they had no teachers and had never heard the Word, and he wanted to take to his relatives and friends a knowledge of Jesus. Will you pray that this desire of his may be fulfilled, and that the light and life that have come to Kaluwasi may be carried by him to that region of utter darkness?

For copies of other leaflets published by the American Board, or for subscriptions to the *Missionary Herald*, write to John G. Hosmer, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The subscription price of the *Herald* is 75 cents a year; in church clubs of ten or more members, 50 cents a year.

Contributions should be sent to Frank H. Wiggin, Treasurer, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., or to the District Secretaries, as follows: Rev. Charles C. Creegan, D.D., Fourth Avenue and 22d Street, New York; Rev. A. N. Hitchcock, Ph.D., 153 La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. H. Melville Tenney, Barker Block, Berkeley, Cal.

Thomas Todd Boston